

## POSTMASTERS WILL MANAGE WIRE BUSINESS

Saving in the Operation of Telegraph Lines Is Forecast.

CENT PHONES PREDICTED

Government Control Awaits Only the Signature of President.

Special Dispatch to The Sun. WASHINGTON, July 17.—With the principal difficulty in the way of taking over the telegraph and telephone wires of the nation now removed, President Wilson is ready to sign the formal executive order. Postmaster-General Burleson is already named as Director-General of the system. David J. Lewis, former representative from Maryland, will be his principal assistant and probably the active head of the system. One-cent phone calls are predicted under the Federal management.

The main difficulty has been the foreign-owned or controlled cable systems having terminals in the United States. The President has received an opinion from the Department of Justice that these may be taken over without complications. If necessary, agreements will be made with the owners. The Executive order is now the only question. It is entirely in the hands of the President. It has been urged upon him that the military situation necessitates control at this time.

The President has been advised, and he agrees, that the Post Office Department should be charged with the administration of the system.

### Postmasters to Have Charge.

It is the plan of the Administration, it was learned, to utilize the present organization of the Post Office Department throughout the country. The postmaster in each city and town will be in charge of the telegraph and telephone system there. Payments will be made through the postmaster, thus utilizing the careful and thorough system of checking up post office accounts.

The Presidential order will take over all of the telephone systems of the country, including smaller lines and independent systems.

Representative Aswell (La.), who favored the legislation in the House, and who has been in almost constant communication with the White House since the inception of the plan, declared today that considerable saving in operation and consequent reductions in rates are certain to result.

### Will Unify Phone Systems.

Reports have already been received showing that 917 cities throughout the country have more than one telephone system. Some of them having three. This added expense to telephone users will be wiped out immediately when Federal control goes into effect through abolishing competition.

While Mr. Aswell refused to disclose the President's views, he confidently prophesied that instead of the increase in rates which resulted after the Government took control of the railroads, both telephone and telegraph rates would be reduced rapidly and would continue to be cut so long as the system is in operation.

"Local telephone calls will, in the course of a short time, drop, and if the system is in effect two or three years will be one cent instead of five," Mr. Aswell declared. "The huge overhead charge carried by the companies will be cut in half immediately by consolidation, and the public will benefit directly from it. Using telephone wires for telegraph messages and vice versa will result in enormous savings."

Mr. Aswell said that leased wire charges would be considerably less under Government control of the wires. He is believed to reflect the views of the President.

### TO OBSERVE WAR BIRTHDAY.

British Statesmen Will Attend Services August 4.

LONDON, July 17.—Premier Lloyd George in a few words moved, ex-Prime Minister Asquith seconded and the members of the House of Commons unanimously adopted this resolution today: "That this House attend St. Margaret's, Westminster, on Sunday, August 4, being the fourth anniversary of the declaration of war, to invoke divine blessing on our just cause."

## MEATLESS DAYS END IN FRANCE SATURDAY

New Stocks, With Imports, Give Country Big Supply.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. Copyright, 1918, all rights reserved. PARIS, July 17.—Meatless days are to be abolished after this week in France. The Food Ministry today published a decree to this effect, the order going into effect on Saturday.

The step is taken owing to the excellent results obtained by the means of meatless days in the last two months. The saving of meat supplies during the first month of the order was 25 per cent., as compared with 19 per cent. in the second month.

The diminution in consumption for the two months ended with July 15 was 62,000,000 pounds, representing 80,000,000 standard rations for the army.

The increased stocks of home fed cattle thus far are made available for market. In addition there have been large imports of chilled and canned meats. France today can be said to be the European country having the largest meat supply, due in a great measure to the sincere and patriotic cooperation of the self-denying public.

### GERMAN SOCIALISTS READY.

They Hope Americans Will Join in International Parley.

AMSTERDAM, July 17.—Vorwärts of Berlin publishes a communication addressed to Camille Huysmans of Belgium, secretary of the Socialist International, by the party executive of the German Social Democracy, repeating the party's willingness to participate in a neutral country.

"Particularly do we assume that representatives of the American Socialists have always been present at recent congresses of the Internationale are being invited."

The communication points out that the German Socialist party, through its speakers, always has expressed itself in favor of a peace by understanding, without annexations or contributions, on the basis of the self-determination of the peoples. It says finally regarding the Eastern question: "You have assuredly seen from reports of the Reichstag proceedings that the Social Democratic party emphatically has championed its social democratic views."

### CHARLES RELIEVES MARSHAL.

Hoetzendorf's Place Filled by Archduke Joseph.

AMSTERDAM, July 17.—Emperor Charles of Austria today has granted the request of Field Marshal Conrad von Hoetzendorf, former Austrian commander in chief and lately in command on the Italian mountain front, that he be relieved of his command.

The Emperor appointed Field Marshal von Hoetzendorf a Colonel of all the guards regiments and conferred upon him the rank of Hereditary Count. Gen. Archduke Joseph was appointed commander of an army group, and Cavalry Gen. Prince Otto von Schoenberg-Hartenstein commander of an army.

It was reported through Zurich on July 17 that the Austrian command had made in the Austro-Hungarian command. Field Marshal Conrad von Hoetzendorf was said to have been replaced by Field Marshal von Koeves.

Gen. Otto von Below of the German army was reported appointed commander in chief of the Austrian army in the Italian theatre, but there never has been any confirmation of this from official Austrian sources.

### 'BELGIUM A WORLD QUESTION.'

So Says Prof. Delbrueck, Citing Other German Safeguards.

LONDON, July 17.—German newspapers give prominence to an interesting statement on Belgium by Prof. Hans Delbrueck in the Neues Wiener Journal, says an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Amsterdam. The statement reads: "Germany now will lose nothing by declaring her readiness to evacuate Belgium without conditions and to re-estate her in independence and integrity. Germany has plenty of other safeguards. Belgium is not only a German question. It is a world question."

"No peace is possible in the world unless Belgium is as free as before the war. Even America has the greatest interest in Belgium. Until Belgium becomes free the world cannot accept even the indirect rule of Germany over her."

### Austrian Mail Plane Crashes; Two Die.

AMSTERDAM, July 17.—A biplane carrying mails between Budapest and Vienna fell from an altitude of 2,000 feet, according to advices received here. The two occupants of the machine were killed.

## HIGHER TAX LIKELY ON NORMAL INCOME

Reduction of War Profits by Price Fixing Calls for New Schedule.

CONGRESS SEEKING DATA

Forecast of 1918 Finances Needed Before Bill Can Be Framed.

Special Dispatch to The Sun. WASHINGTON, July 17.—Prepared to begin the actual drawing up of the new tax law, the House Ways and Means Committee was confronted today with a problem which must be worked out first. Probably the drafting of the bill will not begin for two more weeks. It is probable that one feature will be a considerable increase of the normal income tax rate owing to the reduction of war profits by price fixing.

Using the skeleton of the last revenue law, the committee would first have to deal with income taxes and surtaxes. The committee will require the final figures from the Treasury Department on the income taxes of 1917 and an accurate forecast of the personal and corporate incomes for 1918 in consequence.

A few members of the committee thought this would be simple. It was the general impression that it was desired to raise twice as much money in the future from income taxes and that merely doubling the rates would solve the problem. This is not so, as the members were convinced.

The only thing approaching an estimate which the committee has received has been from Chairman Tamm of the Tariff Commission, who is also a member of the committee charged with fixing prices. In touch closely with the factors which will affect incomes during the year, both corporate and personal, Dr. Tamm declared that the price fixing activities of the Government and other elements would reduce the total 1918 income below that of 1917.

There is no disagreement among the committee that as a result the normal tax of 4 per cent. on incomes will have to be increased. The extent of the increase cannot be settled until the Treasury figures for last year are received, and a forecast can be obtained.

Some members today contended for a normal tax in the neighborhood of that imposed by Great Britain—30 per cent. But so much opposition developed that it is safe to say positively it will not approach that amount.

Governmental price fixing, many members believe, is likely to reduce very materially war profits or so-called excess profits. Incomes from that source, no matter how high the rates are made, probably will be decreased. This fact was pointed out to the committee.

Under the price fixing which has been done already, it has been demonstrated that some low cost industries, under Government prices, have been able to make enormous profits. Adjustment of the inequalities revealed by the Federal Trade Commission is certain to follow in a short time, the majority of the committee believes.

This, and the fact that while the American taxes on lower incomes are comparatively low, those on the higher end of the scale are high, have served to convince many of the committee that the bulk of increased revenue must come from increased normal and a somewhat increased surtax on incomes.

### HENNESSY FILES FOR SENATE.

Seeks to Oppose Baird for Short Term in Jersey.

THRENTON, July 17.—Charles O'Connor Hennessy, former Democratic State Senator of Bergen county, issued a statement today announcing that he would be a candidate for the short term nomination for the United States Senate in the Democratic primaries. He announced his candidacy for the six year term some time ago.

In his statement today Mr. Hennessy said he was entering the contest for the term which extends from election day to March 4 in order that, if nominated by the Democrats, he might oppose United States Senator David Baird, Republican of Camden, who, it is reported, will seek the nomination.

Hennessy later filed his declaration as a candidate for both terms.

### Support by the People.

"In these endeavors," he continued, "the Government and they are in agreement with the desires of the people. The alliance will henceforth, as hitherto, preserve its exclusively defensive character. It will also rest firmly on the satisfactory solution of all questions and on the necessities of joint concern which have arisen from the war. It must, therefore, not only cover political relationships of the two Powers, but must also lead to changes under altered conditions.

"Economic, military and other relations in the future are to be drawn closer. The agreement must comprise a solution, with due regard to desires of the populations, of the questions connected with the rebirth of Poland.

"Henceforth the alliance will not mean a threat or unfriendliness toward any one. Nothing will be included in it calculated to offer a stimulus to the formation of counter groups. Everything which in the future can be realized of the sublime idea of a universal league of nations shall find in our alliance no obstacle, but a favorable nucleus and a prepared group which can easily and naturally unite with every general combination of states resting on concrete principles."

### Closer Relations With Turkey.

Foreign Minister Burian said Austria expected after the war to remain in closer relations with Turkey and Bulgaria.

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After asserting that the Allies would not succeed in their purpose of sowing discord among the nationalities in the dual monarchy, the Foreign Minister said: "It is unnecessary further to characterize this method of fighting. Our races indignantly disavow it. The resolute battle of defense must now be carried on to a good end until it brings us the security necessary for our future peaceful existence."

Diplomacy Playing Part.

There should be no public belief that diplomatic action and warfare action are inseparable. The Foreign Minister asserted that warfare and diplomacy served the same end in time of war, adding:

"In every step it takes, diplomatic activity will pay due regard to the war. The results of the conduct of the war will have a determining influence on the division of labor. On the other hand, diplomacy has a duty, being continually on the watch and paying heed to the moment when a windmill can be blown down."

"Thus and not otherwise should the willingness of the Central Powers for peace be conceived. It will not for the moment hamper the inevitable defense, but after victorious battles, just as during pauses in a battle, it will, even without new peace offers, always be intent in recalling that the world regard this war as senseless and purposeless bloodshed which might at any moment be ended by the reemergence of feelings of humanity in our enemies."

## BURIAN SAYS ALLIES LACK IN HUMANITY

Austrian Foreign Minister Styles War "Senseless and Purposeless Bloodshed."

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reassembling of the Lower House after a four months recess. The galleries were crowded for the occasion. President Gross in welcoming the members referred to the "regrettable interruption" in the activities of the House, and expressed the hope that the present session would serve to safeguard and establish the constitutional position.

The House by a two-thirds majority resolved immediately to begin the first reading of the provisional budget jointly with the discussion of urgent questions regarding various events of domestic and foreign policy as well as the food situation.

Dr. von Seydler recalled the refusal of the Czech clubs to collaborate in revising the constitution, and said that if the Government was not to expose itself to the reproach of political passivity it had to put into effect its programme of national autonomy. Hence the decrees for the partition of Bohemia into districts.

German Race the Backbone.

It was far from his intention to deny this was a German course, Dr. von Seydler continued, because if there was a political force in Austria it could only be such as guaranteed the protection of the just interests of the German race. The backbone of this multiform state was the German race, and it would always be so. The Government would not be deflected from the course it had entered upon.

For those parties which stand aloof, Dr. von Seydler added, the door of understanding always was open. Over this door, however, was written, "Welcome to all who are loyal to the dynasty and the State."

Asserting that the Government had no animosity toward other races, Dr. von Seydler said that all the Germans and Austrians demanded was to be allowed to live and develop in peace. The Government, he said, would also endeavor to do full justice to the national requirements of the races living in Galicia.

Dealing with the food situation Dr. von Seydler said the new harvest would be got in with the greatest expedition. The full yield of the harvest, however, could not be distributed to a large portion of the population before the beginning of August.

Semenoff Occupies Sharsana.

By the Associated Press. PEKING, July 15 (Delayed).—A despatch from Manchuria announces that Gen. Semenoff, the anti-Bolshevik leader, has occupied Sharsana with his forces.

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Asserting that the Government had no animosity toward other races, Dr. von Seydler said that all the Germans and Austrians demanded was to be allowed to live and develop in peace. The Government, he said, would also endeavor to do full justice to the national requirements of the races living in Galicia.

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